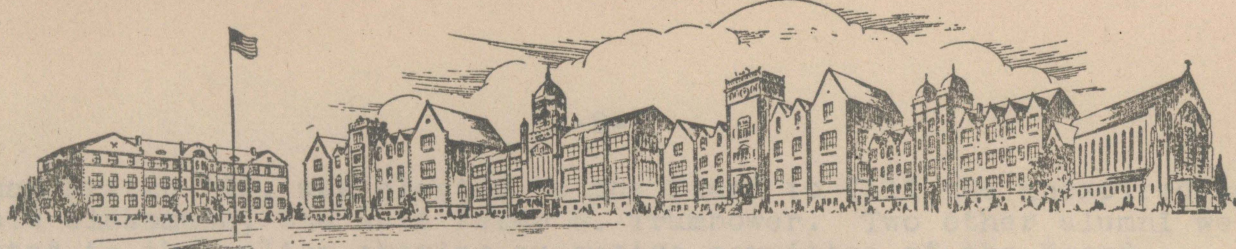


from



MUHLENBERG COLLEGE

December 29, 1944

Number 51

Good Morning--and a Better New Year:

We know that normally this would be the Christmas holiday. However, since there is no holiday where you fellows are, we can't take one either. When we read of what is happening on the fronts where this letter will reach some of you, we felt a bit conscience-stricken for staying off the job on Christmas Day. We came back to work the next day, together with the rest of the staff of the College, and classes got under way bright and early Wednesday morning. We'll wait until the big job is done before we join you in the holiday you fellows are earning. With you, we hope that will come during the year we are about to begin.

Over the Christmas season, as we lighted the campus tree for a few brief moments with torches and sang Silent Night, our thoughts were definitely turned toward all of you. President Tyson renewed his pledge that as long as he and one member of the Faculty and one student remained on the campus that little ceremony would continue just before Christmas and in it the thoughts of this College would always be directed to its Alumni at home and abroad, to those who in years past stood about the same tree.

Since I wrote to you two weeks ago we got two more basketball victories under our belt to keep our batting average at 1.000. We went to Madison Square Garden on Saturday, December 16, and sent St. Francis College home on the short end of a 56-18 score. Every man on the squad got into the game, but still the Cardinal and Gray continued to roll up a score that made more than one disinterested observer comment that Muhlenberg could beat anything in the country this year. We hope they are right--but don't be surprised if we lose a few games. We are bound to with the kind of a schedule we are playing. After the Garden game we came back to Allentown to defeat Columbia University 34 to 33. After that the team took a rest for more than a week and will resume its campaign tomorrow night, playing the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia's Convention Hall. After that we come home for four games at Rockne Hall--Swarthmore on January 3, Villanova on January 6, Temple on January 10, and Franklin and Marshall on January 13. At the moment the score stands at eight victories, no defeats, and 18 more games to be played. That ranks us with the country's topnotchers (according to the Associated Press and other sportswriters) and we hope we can stay in that class. We're a topnotch College in other categories and we'd like to be there in at least one sport--as we were last year.

You fellows who were here in the early days of the V-12 unit will be glad to know that Commander Henry P. Lowenstein, commanding officer of the unit during the first six months, recently added another stripe and now is a captain. A Christmas card from him indicates that he is on duty in the Philippines where he is likely to run across a dozen or more Muhlenberg men. Latest news from Loyte indicates that LIEUTENANT LEONARD HODGKINSON '36 is down there too and that his Thanksgiving dinner was a portion of K rations with a promise of turkey to come. We hope most of you had your turkey for Christmas--even those of you who are facing the new German push. We know that with Muhlenberg men in there you are bound to turn them back. We're not just talking, either, we mean that--everyone of us that wears the Cardinal and Gray means it very sincerely.

Since we wrote to you the last time the Board of Trustees held its annual meeting and continued to look forward toward strengthening Muhlenberg for its important job of serving you fellows--and your sons--when you come back home once again. Another Muhlenberg alumnus, F.

TO ITS FIGHTING MEN AROUND THE WORLD

Nathan Fritch '99, was elected to the Board to fill the unexpired term of his classmate, the late Peter S. Trumbower. Two other alumni were elected to the policy-shaping executive committee of the Board-- Attorney William S. Hudders '26 to succeed Mr. Trumbower and the Rev. Corson C. Snyder '17 to succeed the late Rev. Conrad Wilker. All officers of the board were reelected, including Dr. Reuben J. Butz '87 who has served as its president for more than three decades.

There's very little else that we can tell you about the campus. We're moving along smoothly and everyone is keeping busy--in fact even busier than that. But being busy has become a habit for just about everyone here at Muhlenberg. The Faculty had its annual Christmas party the other night with Dr. Reichard in his usual role of Santa Claus. Dr. Marks was the typical bad boy and felt the sting of Santa's whip several times during the evening. Andy Erskine is busy directing a cast of Bluejackets and civilians in a campus production of MacBeth and Winfield Keck of the physics department is becoming accustomed to married life. As usual, Haps Benfer ate too much turkey over Christmas and has been gobbling ever since. He got off to a good holiday start by officiating at the marriage of MIDSHIPMAN EDWARD KLINK '42 to June Anderson of Bethlehem in the College Chapel last Saturday. Klink is in the Navy unit at Temple Medical School. Incidentally, cupid struck the Faculty again when the engagement of Althea M. Holben to Robert R. Townsend '43 was announced over the Christmas season.

Thanks to so many of you for the many Christmas greetings that came pouring into the Alumni Office from all parts of the world. It is impossible to acknowledge all of them personally but to all of you who took time out to drop Muhlenberg a greeting through the Alumni Office, here is our warmest thanks. We put all the cards on a special bulletin board so that everyone at Muhlenberg could enjoy them--and they did.

This week's news from the fighting fronts comes principally from the newspapers and the radio. The mail has been light, except for Christmas greetings, but there was enough of it to pass on a few items from some of Muhlenberg's 1675--yes, that's correct and on the button--men in the armed forces.

CHAPLAIN LUTHER F. GERHART '22 and E. P. TRUCHSES '26, last heard from when they were in Honolulu, took time out to remind us that December 28 was the third anniversary of the Navy Seabees, whom they called, in their anniversary letter, "the workingest, fightingest bunch of men in this nation's armed forces." ENSIGN DICK HOLBEN '44 would agree with them on that. Holben, now back in the States on duty at Camp Endicott, R.I., was with the Seabee unit that got those floating harbors into action for the D Day push. He and the charming little girl he persuaded to marry him almost a year ago sat with us at a basketball game the other night and we heard some good stories--samples of the kind we hope to hear when the rest of you fellows come back home. To Gerhart and Truchses and Holben, and to the rest of you fellows in the Seabees, here's our anniversary salute. Gerhart reminded us that it was General MacArthur who said, "The only trouble with your Seabees is that you don't have enough of them."

While we're out in the Pacific we might as well tell you that we recently heard from LIEUTENANT ROBERT ALBEE '42. He complained that our translations of "Is You Is or Is You Ain't My Baby" didn't cover pidgen English or the Philippine dialects. Any of you fellows who want to volunteer translations for Albee's benefit are welcome to try and we'll pass them on to the boys in Leyte. Just don't give us any of those Jap characters to copy on this machine--but then who'd want to ask a question like that of a Nip anyway. Which reminds us that we heard that LIEUTENANT MAURICE HORN '44, stationed in Hawaii, took a little hop to one of the islands recently occupied by the American forces to interview Jap prisoners and try out the Japanese he has been learning. We also were told that among those to whom he spoke--officially--were some he had known as a boy in Japan. Perhaps he's just the one to come through with that translation. How about it Maurice? Your Uncle Robert can't help us out on that one.

ENSIGN THOMAS MILLER '43, who recently met his brother-in-law LIEUTENANT JAMES A. KILPATRICK '33 in Hawaii, told us that ENSIGN ALAN G. STEAD '43 married a girl he met in Chicago. If you'll give us her names, Al, we'll put it on the record. All Miller could tell us was that her name is Judy. Miller is supply and commissary officer on an amphibious gunboat. SEAMAN SECOND CLASS WIN KISTLER '34 is on duty on one of the big battleguns in the Pacific. And by the way, if any of you Muhlenberg men should come into contact with the big new U.S.S. Iowa you'll find an alumnus there. He is Captain U.L. Holloway, Jr., the commanding officer of the ship, who received an honorary degree from Muhlenberg at the October commencement and who, incidentally, is mighty proud of it.

CHAPLAIN ARNOLD P. SPOHN '39, who was stationed at the Great Lakes Naval Training Base for some time, is now on board ship in the Pacific. Sorry, that's all we can tell you about him. Another change in address came through from PRIVATE WILLIAM L. TRAUCH '29, whose APO address is 953, care of San Francisco. LIEUTENANT NELSON GRAHAM '40 and LIEUTENANT LEE SNYDER '42 are at the same base on New Guinea but, when we last heard from them under date of November 26, they hadn't met each other as yet. On a trip to one of the small islands where American forces are stationed, Graham saw a St. Nick's Day celebration for the Christian natives. A flute band and a native choir entertained with "Holy Night" followed with--and Graham couldn't believe his ears--"Pistol Packin' Mamma." When ENSIGN BLAIR KRIMMEL '43 and Ensign Jack Clifford of the same class got together down in the South Pacific early in December, they had quite a time. First of all, Clifford had breakfast in the wardroom of Krimmel's ship; then joined a recreation party Krimmel was taking ashore for a picnic on the rocks. Later Jack reciprocated by taking some of the boys from Krimmel's ship for a ride on his P-T boat. The result was that half the boys from Krimmel's ship want P-T duty--and vice versa. LIEUTENANT W.H. HUNSICKER '43, who has been overseas for almost two years, participated in the actions at Cape Gloucester, Tullasea and Pelelieu. He is in the same division as Bob Albee, but the two don't get to see much of each other. Albee is in Division headquarters and Hunsicker is on one of the Infantry Battalion staffs. T/5 PAUL T. COOK '35, another of the Muhlenberg men helping to hold the Philippines, says that the jump from sheltered scholastic days to muddy fox holes in a combat zone calls for great physical and mental changes--and I suppose there are a few hundred of you who will agree.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS SOL RESNICK's '44 Christmas package from Muhlenberg reached him in a hospital bed in England. He was wounded in the right foot while fighting in Germany. It was the second time he was wounded and he wears the Purple Heart with one cluster. He also was awarded the Silver Star for bravery. Some day we hope to hear the full story, Sol. Will you tell us about it? STAFF SERGEANT WELIACE EBERTS '43 no longer is playing in the band. His convoy was the first to land troops at the Port of Cherbourg and after a short stay there and a shorter one in Paris, he was off to new adventures. In Paris he discovered CAPTAIN HENRY R. PASSARO '39, with whom he had been serving for some time, was a Muhlenberg man. Later he met CAPTAIN JOHN DOWNEY '43. The three Muhlenberg men are in the same Division.

LIEUTENANT CLAUDE E. DIEROLF '43 got in touch with us again--this time from England. Early in December he was getting ready to jump into the big time with his Bombardier Group and probably is one of the boys now helping to smash the German offensive. A good many other Muhlenberg men are in those battles too and we hope all of them--and all of you everywhere--know we are rooting for you. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS RALPH W. BAGGER '45 wrote from somewhere in France that he had two experiences that stand out large in his mind: The Armistice Day celebration in the Forest of Compiègne, and a full day of sightseeing in Paris. The latter happened to be on St. Catherine's Day, which Bagger says is the French equivalent of Sadie Hawkins Day. In combat somewhere in Germany, PRIVATE FIRST CLASS PHILIP GARIS '46 says he has used his French to some extent. He has no dictionary, but his latin background comes in handy. Some of you older fellows will remember Dr. Ettinger's comments to the point. Incidentally, the good Dean Emeritus is still alive and going strong.

When PRIVATE PAUL HUMANICK '41 wrote to us early in December, he was "Somewhere along the East Coast" with an APO address and his destination unknown. You fellows over in Europe can keep your eyes open for him. T/5 RAY COCHRAN '44 has been in England for nearly two years and doesn't seem to like it any more than he did when he arrived there. From Italy, LIEUTENANT PAUL A. KEMMERER '42 writes that he frequently thinks of Muhlenberg and the days he spent on the campus. He says he knows that he learned ever so much which is now standing him in good stead in his present job. Up in Newfoundland T/5 EDWARD O. BRIGGS '43 and his orchestra are trying to convert the natives to modern jive. They are kept so busy that the big 16-piece band has to be split into two smaller units to fill all the engagements.

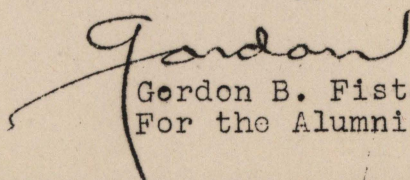
For the rest of this letter we'll come back to the States to look in on the boys who are still training to fight or who are filling some of the important jobs on this side of the Atlantic and Pacific.

After serving in New Guinea, Hawaii, and Australia, MAJOR JOHN I. MURPHY II '39 is back in this country, stationed at Richmond, Va. LIEUTENANT CHARLES A. VANREED '44, stationed at Camp Lee, Va., recently spent a day with LIEUTENANT PERRY F. KENDIG, Muhlenberg English instructor on leave for service with the Navy, and also saw JOHN AMMARELL '41, on duty with the FBI in Richmond. JACK R. REQUA '34 is back in civilian life once again, having received his medical discharge from the Army a few weeks ago. He is living in Baldwin, L.I., N.Y. and is associated with the Requa Manufacturing Co. in Brooklyn. Down at the Navy Hospital Corps School at Bainbridge, HA2/c IRA G.T. WEISMANN '47 is making a good record as his course moves along toward its completion. CORPORAL H.C. KECK '29, stationed at Camp Croft, S.C., put us in touch with Dick Stamm '28 whom he met recently at the Lutheran Service Center near his base. Neither Bucknell nor Yale can compare with Muhlenberg in a great many things, even though they are larger, writes Marine PRIVATE HARRY H. POWELL '46 from New Haven, Conn. where he is continuing his training. CAPTAIN KENNETH LAMBERT '39 is now an assistant regimental surgeon, stationed at Camp Butner, N.C. Whitey Kurowski '40 is a specialist, first class, in the physical fitness program at Bainbridge and expects to be a chief before too many more weeks or months go by. Which reminds us--GEORGE HOWATT '40 stopped in over the Christmas season to wish us (the family) a merry Christmas with a basket of his delicious apples. He's in the physical fitness program at the Glenn Martin plant in Baltimore--or did we tell you that before. ART GETZ '44, stationed at Camp Blanding, Fla., discovered that he is a skeleton. He is in a cadre and the dictionary (so he says) defines a cadre as the skeleton of the Army. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS HAROLD GRAY '33 got in another plug for Muhlenberg the other day when Mrs. Roosevelt entertained the White House guard in the main dining room. He spoke with the First Lady for about five minutes and she recalled her visit to Muhlenberg when she received an honorary degree. These alumni do get together everywhere--even in the White House. "We are proud of Muhlenberg College and the men who are carrying on its fine traditions" writes LIEUTENANT WILBUR M. LAUDENSLAGER '39 from the U.S. Naval Hospital at Great Lakes where he is serving as a chaplain.

Here are some of the promotions we have heard about in recent weeks LIEUTENANT DANA H. SMITH '27; PRIVATE FIRST CLASS BENJAMIN R. LEWIS '42; SEAMAN SECOND CLASS EDWARD BROWN '46; SpA1/c WALTER KUROWSKI '40; ENSIG JOHN H. WESSLING '44; SECOND LIEUTENANT DONALD L. KUHNSMAN '45; SECOND LIEUTENANT ARLIN E. BUBECK '44; CAPTAIN RICHARD J. SEXTON '40; ENSIGN PAUL R. BLEILER '45; SECOND LIEUTENANT L OYD GRONER '45; CORPORAL WILLIAM PIEPER '47; T/5 RICHARD ERB '46; SEAMAN SECOND CLASS JOHN R. BROWN '37; CORPORAL H. LEON MCGROGAN '41; CORPORAL ROBERT R. RANKEN '44; and LIEUTENANT (j.g.) EUGENE H. COCHRANE '38.

Elsie tells me I have just enough space to wish you all a Happy New Year--and by that I mean a happier one than the year we are now closing. Our wish to you is that the new year will bring peace once again and see your return to your families, to Muhlenberg.

Sincerely,


Gordon B. Fister
For the Alumni Office